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## **CHAPTER 3 – COMMENTS AND COORDINATION**

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## Comments and Coordination

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Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this Project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including: Project Development Team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and public information meetings. This chapter summarizes the results of the Department's efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve Project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

### **3.1 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES**

Coordination with local and state agencies began in August 2008 for this proposed Project. The first Project "kick-off" meeting was held on September 16, 2008 with Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) and the California Department of Transportation (Department), District 4. Subsequent monthly meetings (Project Development Team [PDT] meetings) have been held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Department District 4 office in Oakland to discuss the progress and any issues of the Project. Attendance at the PDT meetings generally involves ACCMA, the Department, City of Oakland, and City of Alameda.

As part of the Project planning process, a series of Value Analysis (VA) meetings were held between December 1st and 5th, 2008. These meetings were attended by the Department, ACCMA, and the City of Alameda to discuss Project alternatives and verify that all viable alternatives were considered.

#### **3.1.1 Biological Resources**

Lists for special status species were generated from the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A List of Endangered and Threatened Species that May Occur in Oakland East, Hayward, San Leandro, Oakland West, Richmond, Hunters Point, Las Trampas Ridge, Walnut Creek and Briones Valley 7.5 minute quadrangles was generated through the USFWS web page. The list, document number 081007040117, was generated on October 7, 2008. The CNDDDB list was generated using CDFG RareFind, Version 3.1.0 (last updated August 2, 2008). The CNPS list of special status plant species was generated in October 2008. In addition to the special status species lists, an invasive plant species list was generated in October 2008 through the Cal-IPC web page to determine the most problematic and invasive species in the Project area.

### **3.1.2 Historic and Cultural Resources**

Consultation with local experts on historic resources included personal communication with Betty Marvin, Historic Preservation Planner with the City of Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey (part of the Community and Economic Development Agency) and with Susana Villarreal, a knowledgeable former resident of the Kennedy Tract/"Jingletown" neighborhood. Consultation occurred during and following a building-by-building intensive survey of the properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted in September 2008 requesting a search of its sacred lands database and a list of Native American representatives who may have information or concerns regarding the Project. The NAHC replied in October 2008 providing the results of the database search and a list of local Native American representatives.

The Department, as assigned by FHWA, submitted the Historic Property Survey Report, Historical Resource Evaluation Report, and Archaeological Survey Report for Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). On July 15, 2009, the SHPO provided a concurrence of eligibility letter to the Department. A Finding of Effect report has been prepared and will be submitted to SHPO in summer 2009.

## **3.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A series of discussions between the Kennedy Tract/"Jingletown" neighborhood residents and the City of Oakland began in 1999. Community discussions revolved around the building of a sound wall and concerns about pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the I-880/29th Avenue off-ramp adjoining Lazear Elementary School. The other principal concerns of the community include noise generated by the freeway and local traffic circulation. A Neighborhood Action meeting was held on February 25, 2000 by the Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church Organizing Committee, an affiliate of Oakland Community Organizations. This group has held similar meetings every few months to monitor progress in addressing community concerns, mainly regarding noise, pedestrian safety and traffic circulation.

A community meeting was held on January 18, 2006 to solicit input from the community members. During that meeting, conceptual designs for the Project were presented, including Project goals, existing conditions, the proposed improvements, the issues of circulation, project funding and schedule. Potential opportunities for community involvement, including workshops, a newsletter, and briefing meetings were provided. Community participants attending generally expressed support for the Project.

### **3.2.1 Cultural Resources**

In November 2008, letters were sent to all contacts identified on the NAHC list of Native American representatives. As of July 2009, none of the Native American representatives had responded with any concerns regarding the Project.

## **3.3 COMMENTS AND RESPONDING TO COMMENTS**

This section will be completed upon completion of the formal public review process.